

South Bethany Breeze

Spring/Summer 2023

ELECTION & COMMITTEES

The Town election was canceled this year because only two people applied for the three seats available. The third seat was filled after the Town advertised for applicants, one of who was then appointed by Town Council.

Congratulations to the two incumbents, William "Tim" Shaw and Edie Dondero. Both were sworn in by Mayor Saxton on May 24 for two-year terms.



Also congratulations are in order for Christine Keefe who was appointed to the open position. Christine was also sworn in by the Mayor on May 24 for a two-year term. Chris has been a long-time volunteer of the Town by assisting with the Budget & Finance Committee, Police Department, and Town Election. The Mayor and Council is grateful to all individuals who submitted letters of interest for the Council position.



Positions held by the elected officials are as follows:

Tim Saxton - Mayor

Tim Shaw - Mayor Pro Tem; Canal Water Quality Committee (CWQC) Liaison

Randy Bartholomew - Council Treasurer; Budget & Finance Committee (B&FC) Chair

Edie Dondero - Council Secretary; Community Relations Committee (CRC) Chair

Derek Abbott - Council Member; Charter & Code Committee (CCC) Chair

Bob Biciocchi - Council Member; Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety *Ad Hoc* Committee (B&PS) Chair

Christine Keefe - Council Member; Planning Commission Point of Contact

COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

Budget & Finance - Don Boteler, Colin Chasler, Steve Farrow, Rob Gensler, Joe Mormando, Cindy Van Horn

Canal Water Quality - Chris Vanuga, Chair, John Beauregard, Christopher Carlyle, Robert Fisher, Gary Lessing, Joan Marini, John Roberts, Peter Trelenberg, Dave Wilson

Charter & Code - Tom Barletta, Bob Biciocchi, Carl Bittenbender, Steven Chantler

Community Relations - Lisi Biciocchi, Ingrid Moore, Catherine Peck

SPECIAL THANKS

We are grateful to the Trelenberg and Mais families for offering the use of their vacant lots during the algae harvest project. Both lots, one on Bayshore and one on York, were used as deposit locations with the DNREC truck and the Solitude harvester. This is yet another great way that our community members get involved with helping the Town! We thank and encourage property owners to continue volunteering for Town

Committees and events.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!



KNOW YOUR ZONE

It's important to know your Evacuation Zone before a disaster strikes. Did you know that South Bethany is in the "A" zone? Your zone includes specific evacuation routes for your area and proper guidance in the event of an emergency. During an emergency event, Delaware officials use the letter associated with the affected Evacuation Zones when issuing a warning or order. If you haven't already, this is also a great time to sign up for emergency alerts through the Delaware Emergency Notification System (DENS). Visit smart911.com to sign up.

Familiarizing yourself with your zone in advance provides time-saving opportunities for planning and preparation for you, your family and those closest to you. For more information, visit PrepareDE.org or the Delaware Emergency Management Agency's page at www.dema.delaware.gov. **KNOW YOUR ZONE!**

NOTICE OF CONSTRUCTION - PLAN AHEAD!

The Department of Transportation notified the Town that there is a proposed pavement and rehabilitation improvements project planned for Muddy Neck Road/Kent Avenue. Construction is anticipated to start summer 2023. Work will be performed between 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM with an expected duration of 120 calendar days.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Chief's Corner	2
Community Relations Committee	2
New Building/Code Office Hours	2
News Briefs	3
Ordinances & Resolutions	3
Town Hall Info Page	4

Town of South Bethany • 402 Evergreen Road • South Bethany, DE 19930
Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to 4:00 pm, closed weekends & holidays

Visit the Town Website: <https://southbethany.delaware.gov/>

Get Connected! Visit our website to sign up for email notifications

Find us on Instagram @southbethanytownhall

CHIEF'S CORNER

SUMMER SAFETY

We can't say enough about summer safety! Not only is it important for motorists to be cognizant of pedestrians and bicyclists, but it's important for pedestrians and bicyclists to be cognizant of motorists! We remind pedestrians and bicyclists to stay to the sides of the road when walking or riding, as they are still traveled heavily by vehicles. Pedestrians should always use crosswalks when crossing Coastal Highway. Never take a chance. Cross Safely!

PETS

While it is widely known that the Town is very pet-friendly, it's important to remember that all dogs must be leashed in the Town's corporate limits. Dog bag stations and waste containers are located throughout Town and owners are responsible for the removal of dog waste. Please keep our Town clean & safe!

Dogs are not permitted on the beach at any time from May 15 through October 15.



SHOULD I STOP?

We see continual issues with the 3-way stop at Evergreen, Russell, and Peterson Roads. These are not yield signs. They are stop signs. Which means that all vehicles need to come to a complete stop. There is also an additional stop sign heading east on Evergreen at Russell. Don't take chances! There are too many pedestrians and bicyclists right now. All vehicles must **STOP!**



PARKING TICKETS

Our parking enforcement officers are already busy this season. Parking permits are required in the Town for residents, as well as guests/visitors. Residential passes permit parking on the roads east of Coastal Highway and guest/visitor passes (purchased at the kiosk) permit parking on the roads west of Coastal Highway.

Have a problem or question about a ticket? Stop by the Police Department to dispute a ticket, not Town Hall. If you're paying for a parking ticket, go to Town Hall.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Community Relations Committee (CRC) was formed by the Town Council one year ago, the result of a merger of the former Communications & Public Relations and Community Enhancement Committees. The purpose of the CRC is to increase and enhance communication between the Town and property owners; to foster a sense of community and encourage residents' engagement and volunteerism; and to promote the stewardship of individual and Town-owned properties.

Spring has been a busy time for the CRC! Earlier this month we hosted a couple of well-attended programs inspired by Earth Day. At the first, entitled "Native Plants: What's the Buzz?", residents learned why native plants are critical to both ecological and human health and how we can incorporate them into our yards and gardens. (If you missed the program, visit our page on the Town website to download some native plant information including lists of locally appropriate species to plant in your yards.)

Next, we hosted a presentation by Andrew McGowan of the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays on "Water Quality of the Inland Bays." The program included discussion of the recently released "State of the Bays" report which details water quality conditions in the three inland bays including the Little Assawoman Bay, to which our canals are linked. And, after two previous attempts that were flummoxed by rain, we finally hosted our second-ever community bonfire on the beach. It was a lovely night and we look forward to doing it again this fall.

Join us on the third Friday of each month at 10am in Town Hall for our monthly Coffee with Council program. This is an unstructured hour of casual conversation with a member of Town Council where attendees can share feedback and/or ask questions about any Town-related issue. Having been on hold for several months while Town Hall was renovated, we were pleased to resume this monthly program on May 19th with Mayor Saxton. The next will be

on June 16th with Councilman Bob Biciocchi.

We had a booth at the South Bethany Property Owners' Association (SBPOA) Summer Kick-off Party on June 10th, where we had more info on upcoming events and solicited your ideas for future events and community enhancement projects.

Mark your calendars for July 27th. The annual Movie on the Beach returns! This year we are traveling back to the 80s and showing a family-friendly classic comedy. Details will be forthcoming.

And finally, we wish to welcome the newest members of the Adopt-a-Canal Program: Chris and Karin Vanuga have taken over the Henlopen road end, and Danila Weatherly has become a co-adopter of the New Castle road end. Welcome, Chris, Karin, and Danila and thank you for your efforts!

Chair, Edie Dondero

NEW OFFICE HOURS FOR BUILDING/CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Changes to the Building/Code Enforcement Department started May 1, 2023, with Joe Hinks meeting with property owners & contractors by appointment only. Anyone wishing to meet with Joe can request an appointment by calling him at 302-

539-3653, ext. 102, or by emailing

inspector@southbethany.org.

Office hours are as follows:

Tuesday & Thursday - Morning appointments from 8:00 to 11:30 AM

Wednesday - Afternoon appointments from 12:30 to 3:00 PM

Monday & Friday - Site Visits and Field Inspections



Just the Facts

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

The Community Relations Committee will be hosting this successful event, providing conversation and coffee with the Mayor, several Councilmembers, Police Chief Jason Lovins and others, every third Friday at South Bethany Town Hall (unless otherwise noted).



The coffee events are a time for the public to stop in, listen, or share comments in an informal setting with neighbors. Stay tuned to see who will be next by subscribing to the South Bethany News Updates.

FAREWELL AND THANKS TO COUNCILMAN DICK OLIVER



Councilman Dick Oliver completed his term seat on May 12, 2023, after serving nine years on the Town Planning Commission, and serving four years on the Town Council. Dick has been a fervent supporter of the Town and Town events! We wish him all the best in his retirement!

A FRIENDLY REMINDER IF YOU RENT

If you have rented your property, you will need to pay rental tax. The rental tax is 8% of your gross rental income and is due by October 31, 2023. The Town will mail out rental tax forms in early September to all the properties who paid their Application for Rental License Declaration.

SOUTH BETHANY POLICE WELCOMES TWO NEW POLICE OFFICERS!

Chief Jason Lovins is happy to announce the hiring of two new Officers to the South Bethany Police Department. Welcome, Officer Matthew Boyd and Officer Ken Huff!

REMINDER: CONTACT ARTESIAN FOR WATER EMERGENCIES

Our yearly reminder to property owners.....the Public Works Department is not permitted to enter on, or in, properties to turn off or repair broken water pipes. Property owners, or concerned neighbors who notice a broken pipe, must call Artesian at **302-453-6930**. Please be prepared to provide the street address of the property to Artesian's customer service.

WELCOME SEASONAL POLICE OFFICER!

Chief Jason Lovins is pleased to announce another addition to the police department, seasonal Officer Cliff Adar. Cliff is a retired Officer from the New York Police Department (NYPD) and is currently teaching college courses in criminal justice. Please say hello to him if you see him around Town.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance 210-23 Chapter 134-2, Vehicles, Operation of, Activities Prohibited, A, updating speed limit for specific roads, and F, updating language regarding date change to vehicle entrance on Black Gum Drive and Kent Avenue

Resolution 1-23 Adopting Sussex County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazard Plan Update

Resolution 2-23 Setting FY 2024 Property Tax Rate and Rental Tax Rate

Resolution 3-23 Adopting an Operating and Capital Budget and Reserve Allocations for FY24

Resolution 4-23 FY24 Schedule of Fees

Resolution 5-23 Recognizing former Councilman Dick Oliver

Ordinances & Resolutions can be viewed at Town Hall or at southbethany.delaware.gov.

SOUTH BETHANY BIKE RODEO

For cyclists of all ages!

- *Bike safety inspections
- *Gear giveaways
- *Kids' bike course
- *Door prizes



FREE

Saturday, July 15
9 - 11:30am
SB Town Hall

South Bethany Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Committee
South Bethany Police Department



TOWN HALL INFORMATION PAGE

Town Hall is opened 7:30 am - 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday
Closed holidays & weekends

STAY INFORMED! GET CONNECTED

The Town of South Bethany offers TWO options to subscribe for email notifications

Visit our Town website at southbethany.delaware.gov. At the top of the home page, click on the banner “more info”.

News Updates provides only Town Council agendas and news releases regarding emergency weather, Town election, events and activities, trash schedule and other various town related information.

Meetings Only provides just that - Town Council and Committee meeting notifications. You will receive an email on each day that the notices are published. Each email will include a title, summary and link access.

TOWN HALL 302-539-3653

<u>STAFF</u>	<u>NAME</u>
Town Manager	Maureen Hartman
Finance Director	Renee McDorman
Code Enforcement Officer	Joe Hinks
Town Clerk	Matt Amerling
Admin Assistant	Brittany Sneeringer
Public Works Supervisor	Jon Stiffler
Public Works	Greg DeMarco
Deputy Code Enforcement & Beach Patrol Captain	Ryan Dacey

POLICE DEPARTMENT 302-539-3996 (non-emergency)

Chief of Police	Jason Lovins
Police Sergeant	Patrick Wiley
Police Officer	Shaun Baldasano
Police Officer	Matt Boyd
Police Officer	Ken Huff
Police Officer	Matt Wilson
PD Admin Assistant	Coleen Meyer

TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor	Timothy Saxton
Councilmember	Derek Abbott
Treasurer	Randall Bartholomew
Councilmember	Bob Biciocchi
Secretary	Edie Dondero
Councilmember	Chris Keefe
Mayor Pro Tem	William (Tim) Shaw

TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meeting dates/times are subject to change; meetings can be attended in person or, when available, accessed via the virtual link provided on all agendas.

Town Council meetings are normally held the 2nd Fri at 9:00 am, and Town Workshops, if necessary, are normally held the 4th Fri at 9:00 am. (unless otherwise noted)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>MEETING</u>
June 23	9:00 AM	Town Council Workshop
July 4	TOWN HALL CLOSED (INDEPENDENCE DAY)	
July 14	9:00 AM	Town Council Regular Meeting
July 28	9:00 AM	Town Council Workshop
Aug 11	9:00 AM	Town Council Regular Meeting
Aug 25	9:00 AM	Town Council Workshop
Sept 4	TOWN HALL CLOSED (LABOR DAY)	
Sept 8	9:00 AM	Town Council Regular Meeting
Sept 22	9:00 AM	Town Council Workshop
Oct 13	9:00 AM	Town Council Regular Meeting
Oct 27	9:00 AM	Town Council Workshop
Nov 9 (Thursday)	9:00 AM	Town Council Regular Meeting
Nov 10	TOWN HALL CLOSED (VETERANS DAY)	
Nov 23-24	TOWN HALL CLOSED (THANKSGIVING)	
Dec 8	9:00 AM	Town Council Regular Meeting
Dec 25-26	TOWN HALL CLOSED (CHRISTMAS)	
January		NO Town Council Meetings
Feb 9	9:00 AM	Town Council Regular Meeting
Feb 23	9:00 AM	Town Council Workshop

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

State Police Non-Emergency 302-855-2980
DNREC (Boating complaints outside of Town limits) 800-523-3336

U.S. Coast Guard 800-424-8802
Republic Services (Trash, Recycling, Yard Waste) 800-762-8888

DE Solid Waste Authority (Landfill) 800-404-7080
Artesian (Water and broken pipes) 302-453-6930 *
Sharp Energy (Emergency) 302-856-6648
(Complaint) 302-539-7898

***Reminder: Property owners or concerned neighbors must call Artesian, not Town Hall, regarding broken water pipes.**

New to the Neighborhood? Stop by Town Hall to pick up a “Welcome Bag,” which provides information about the Town.

Questions? Call Town Hall at (302) 539-3653, extension 101.

NOTE: The **South Bethany Property Owner’s Association (SBPOA)** is not affiliated with the Town. All questions/comments for SBPOA should be directed to the SBPOA President. For more information, visit southbethanypoa.com.